in Delhi Regional Office and Chandigarh Depot of Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. were detected causing a loss of about Rs. 8.20 crores to the Corporation. Executive Director (Marketing) and six officials of Marketing and Finance Department of Delhi Regional Office and Depot Incharges of Delhi and Chandigarh have been suspended. The case has been referred to the C.B.I.

Preference to sick PSUs in placing orders

2507. SHRI GAYA SINGH :

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has asked all Government Departments to give preference to sick public sector undertakings while placing orders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Improving the Performance of PSUs

2508. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) The strategies devised to improve the performance of the public sector undertakings to face the global competition;

(b) the financial assistance earmarked for revamping PSUs; and

(c) the action proposed in regard to the chronically sick PSUs.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Measures, in general, taken by the Government to improve the performance of the PSUs and make them globally competitive include enhanced delegation of powers, professionalisation of managements, promotion of joint ventures, modernisation, technology upgradation, capital and organisational restructuring, rationalization of manpower etc.

(b) Depending upon the requirements and availability of resources, Government provides budgetary support to PSUs including for restructuring and revamping. Enterprise-wise Annual Plan Assistance is indicated in Expenditure Budget, which is a published document.

(c) Enterprise specific actions are taken for halting sickness and for improving the performance of the PSUs. BIFR formulate appropriate revival and rehabilitation schemes, under the Provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, for the sick PSUs registered with it.

Production of Cement in CCI

2509. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 1st October, 1999 the physical production of cement in CCI was around 2 lakh tonnes and the losses were around Rs. 30 crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the entire financial year. the physical production is going to be around 5 lakh tonnes and the losses would be Rs. 250 crores though the production of 1998-99 was around 10 lakh tonnes;

(c) if so. the reasons therefor: and

(d) the details of CCI factory producing cement at present and the details of units that are closed?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The physical production of Cement in CCI as on 30-9-1999 was around 3.53 lakh MT and the losses during the period were around Rs. 88 Crores.

(b) The total production during the year 1999-2000 was around 6.55 lakh MT as compared to the production of 9.47 lakh MT during the previous year, 1998-99. The losses during 1999-2000 were provision ally saround Rs. 182 crores as against the losses of Rs. 184.94 crores during 199899.

(c) and (d) The decline in production was mainly due to liquidity crunch and other related factor adversely affecting the operations of various units. Presently only three units, viz., Tandur, Bokajan and Rajban, are operational. Production in the remaining seven units, viz., Mandhar, Akaltara, Charkhi Dadri, Kurkunta, Adilabad, Nayagaon and Delhi Grinding Unit remains suspended.